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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/883,899	06/18/2001	Reiko Kondo	0941.65628	2563
24978	7590	10/18/2005	EXAMINER	
GREER, BURNS & CRAIN 300 S WACKER DR 25TH FLOOR CHICAGO, IL 60606			KLIMOWICZ, WILLIAM JOSEPH	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2652	

DATE MAILED: 10/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/883,899	KONDO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	William J. Klimowicz	2652	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 August 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Status

Claims 1, 2 and 4-8 are currently pending.

Claims 3, 9 and 10 have been cancelled by the Applicants.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Watannabe et al. (US 2001/0040777 A1).

As per claims 1 and 8, Watannabe et al. (US 2001/0040777 A1) discloses a magnetic head used in a magnetic reproducing device, including a magnetoresistance film (e.g., 26, 25, 24, 231, 22 and 21); a flux guide (e.g., 10) guiding a signal magnetic field from a magnetic recording medium through said magnetoresistance film (e.g., 26, 25, 24, 231, 22 and 21), wherein said signal magnetic field in said flux guide (10) is in the same general direction (e.g., signal field is up or down) upward from the medium through guide (10) and from guide (10) through to the magnetoresistance element (e.g., 26, 25, 24, 231, 22 and 21) as said signal

magnetic field of said magnetoresistance film (e.g., 26, 25, 24, 231, 22 and 21), wherein a part (e.g., see FIG. 2) of a surface of the magnetoresistance film (e.g., 26, 25, 24, 231, 22 and 21) overlaps and contacts a part of a surface of the flux guide (10), and wherein the surface of the magnetoresistance film (e.g., 26, 25, 24, 231, 22 and 21) is not an edge of the magnetoresistance film (e.g., 26, 25, 24, 231, 22 and 21) and the surface of the flux guide (10) is not an edge of the flux guide (10); and a flux-guide regulating film (33) aligning magnetic domains of said flux guide into a single domain -see paragraph [0079].

Additionally, as per claim 2, wherein said flux guide (10) is formed as a separate element from said magnetoresistance film (e.g., 26, 25, 24, 231, 22 and 21) - see FIG. 2.

As per claim 4, wherein at least one of sides and surfaces of said flux-guide regulating film (33) is magnetically connected with said flux guide (10) - e.g., see, *inter alia*, FIG. 7.

As per claim 5, said flux-guide regulating film (33) is one of a highly coercive-force film and an antiferromagnetic film (e.g. see *inter alia*, paragraph [0080]).

As per claim 6, wherein said flux-guide regulating film (33) also aligns magnetic domains of said magnetoresistance film (e.g., 26, 25, 24, 231, 22 and 21) into a single magnetic domain (e.g., see *inter alia*, paragraph [0079]).

As per claim 7, wherein said magnetoresistance film (e.g., 26, 25, 24, 231, 22 and 21) is a magnetoresistance film of one of a spin-valve type and a tunnel junction type (e.g. see, *inter alia*, paragraph [0092]).

Additionally, as per claim 8, Watannabe et al. (US 2001/0040777 A1) discloses a magnetic reproducing device (e.g., FIG. 16) comprising: a magnetic head (e.g. 203) including the aforementioned magnetoresistance film (e.g., 26, 25, 24, 231, 22 and 21) and flux guide (10).

Response to Arguments

Applicants' arguments with respect to the pending claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicants' amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William J. Klimowicz whose telephone number is (571) 272-7577. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (6:30AM-5:00PM).

Art Unit: 2652

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa T. Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-7579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



William J. Klimowicz
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2652

WJK